



SUPREME COURT



Light illuminates part of the Supreme Court building at dusk on Capitol Hill in Washington, Nov. 16, 2022.

Associated Press

Supreme Court weighs 'most important case' on democracy

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is about to confront a new elections case, a Republican-led challenge asking the justices for a novel ruling that could significantly increase the power of state lawmakers over elections for Congress and the presidency.

The court is set to hear arguments Wednesday in a case from North Carolina, where Republican efforts to draw congressional districts heavily in their favor were blocked by a Democratic majority on the state Su-

preme Court because the GOP map violated the state constitution.

A court-drawn map produced seven seats for each party in last month's mid-term elections in highly competitive North Carolina.

The question for the justices is whether the U.S. Constitution's provision giving state legislatures the power to make the rules about the "times, places and manner" of congressional elections cuts state courts out of the process.

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Drastic increase in treatment for depression and anxiety among the youth



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Fifth of December a beautiful night for children in the Dutch Kingdom



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Blinken vows U.S. support for Israel despite unease over gov't

By **MATTHEW LEE**
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Sunday the U.S. will not shrink from its unwavering support for Israel despite stark differences with Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu and concerns the Biden administration may have about potential members of his incoming right-wing government. Speaking to a left-leaning


group that some on the right accuse of being too sympathetic to the Palestinians and Iran, Blinken said the United States will remain a stalwart friend of Israel even as it pursues goals that Netanyahu has opposed, including a two-state resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and a restoration of the languishing 2015 Iran nuclear deal. The U.S.-Israel "partnership — and all that it's pro-

duced for the people of our nations and the world — has always been underwritten by the United States ironclad commitment to Israel's security, a commitment that has never been stronger than it is today," he said. Blinken said the Biden administration would engage with Netanyahu's government based on its policies and not on personalities, including potential senior Cabinet ministers



Secretary of State Antony Blinken speaks at the J Street National Conference at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022.


Associated Press



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who have expressed vehement anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab views in the past. But, Blinken also warned that the U.S. would object to policies that marginalize the Palestinians, diminish their "horizon for hope," or make a two-state resolution more difficult. He said those would be detrimental to Israel's long-term security or future as a Jewish democratic state.

"We expect the new Israeli government to continue to work with us to advance our shared values, just as we have previous governments," he said.

"We will gauge the government by the policies it pursues rather than individual personalities. We will hold it to the mutual standards we have established in our relationship over the past seven decades," Blinken said. U.S. officials have previously expressed concerns about the possible positions in Netanyahu's government of at least two right-wing Israeli politicians: Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezael Smotrich.

Ben-Gvir, a lawmaker known for anti-Arab vitriol and provocative stunts, has been offered the job of national security minister, a powerful position that will put him in charge of Israel's

police force. Meanwhile, Smotrich, leader of the Religious Zionism party, which shares anti-Palestinian and anti-gay views, has been offered oversight over the Israeli agency for Palestinian civil affairs.

Blinken noted that the U.S.-Israel relationship is seven decades old and the Biden administration would "speak honestly" with the new Israeli government as well as the Palestinians, whose leaders he said must also refrain from raising tensions that endanger a two-state solution.

He pointed out that the Biden administration continues to support its predecessor's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and is working to expand former President Donald Trump's "Abraham Accords" that saw several Arab nations normalize relations with Israel. He lauded the recent completion of a maritime border accord between Israel and Lebanon. Blinken's comments came at the annual conference of J Street, a pro-Israel group that has distinguished itself from the much larger and older American Israel Public Affairs Committee by advancing positions often supported by the Democratic party. □

Supreme Court weighs 'most important case' on democracy

Continued from Front

"This is the single most important case on American democracy -- and for American democracy -- in the nation's history," said former federal judge Michael Luttig, a prominent conservative who has joined the legal team defending the North Carolina court decision.

The Republican leaders of North Carolina's legislature told the Supreme Court that the Constitution's "carefully drawn lines place the regulation of federal elections in the hands of state legislatures, Congress and no one else."

Three conservative justices already have voiced some support for the idea that the state court had improperly taken powers given by the Constitution when it comes to federal elections. A fourth has written approvingly about limiting the power of state courts in this area.

But the Supreme Court has never invoked what is known as the independent state legislature theory. It was, though, mentioned in a separate opinion by three conservatives in the Bush v. Gore case that settled the 2000 presidential election. If the court were to recognize it now, opponents of the concept argue, the effects could be much broader than just redistricting.

The most robust ruling for North Carolina Republicans could undermine more than 170 state constitutional provisions, over 650 state laws delegating authority to make election policies to state and local officials, and thousands of regulations down to the location of polling places, according to the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law.

Luttig, who advised former Vice President Mike Pence that he had no authority to reject electoral votes following the 2020 election, is among several prominent conservatives and Republicans who have lined up against the broad assertion that legislatures can't be



Members of the Supreme Court sit for a new group portrait following the addition of Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, at the Supreme Court building in Washington, Friday, Oct. 7, 2022. Bottom row, from left, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Justice Clarence Thomas, Chief Justice of the United States John Roberts, Justice Samuel Alito, and Justice Elena Kagan. Top row, from left, Justice Amy Coney Barrett, Justice Neil Gorsuch, Justice Brett Kavanaugh, and Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson.

challenged in state courts when they make decisions about federal elections, including congressional redistricting.

That group includes former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, law professor Steven Calabresi, a founder of the conservative Federalist Society and Benjamin Ginsberg, a longtime lawyer for Republican candidates and the party. "Unfortunately, because of ongoing and widespread efforts to sow distrust and spread disinformation, confidence in our elections is at a low ebb," Ginsberg wrote in a Supreme Court filing. "The version of the independent state legislature theory advanced by Petitioners in this case threatens to make a bad situation much worse, exacerbating the current moment of political polarization and further undermining confidence in our elections."

The arguments are taking place a day after the final contest of the 2022 midterms, the Georgia Senate runoff between Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock and Republican Herschel Walker.

In that contest, state courts ruled in favor of Democrats to allow for voting on the Saturday before the elec-

tion, over the objections of Republicans.

Jason Snead, of the conservative Honest Elections Project, said the case is an opportunity for the high court to rein in out-of-control state courts which are being pushed by Democratic attorneys to effectively create new rules governing voting, including the Georgia example.

"We've seen a fairly pervasive attempt to use courts to rewrite election laws if those laws don't suit partisan agendas," Snead said in a call with reporters. "That's not something we want to see when it flies in the face of the Constitution."

He is among proponents of the high court's intervention who argue the case doesn't represent "a threat to democracy."

The justices can instead write a narrow opinion that places limits on state courts without upsetting the choices New York and other states have made to restrict partisan redistricting, a group of New York voters wrote in a court filing.

The New Yorkers implicitly recognize that if the court gives more power to state legislatures over drawing congressional lines, Republicans may not necessarily

benefit.

During the last redistricting cycle, states that used independent redistricting commissions rather than legislatures were largely Democratic-dominated ones. Commissions drew 95 House seats in states with Democratic legislatures and governors, as opposed to only 12 in states with GOP control. A ruling that grants legislatures ultimate power over redistricting could eradicate those commissions and let Democrats redraw a major chunk of the House map.

"The bottom line is the impact of this fringe theory would be terrible," said former Attorney General Eric Holder, chairman of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee. "It could unleash a wave of gerrymandering from both parties."

Even less dramatic changes may not necessarily tilt the GOP's way on a national redistricting map that was essentially fought to a draw, and where state court rulings cost Democrats about as many House seats as Republicans.

The Supreme Court refused to step into the North Carolina case in March, allowing the court-drawn districts to be used this year.

Justices Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch and Clarence Thomas dissented. Writing for the three, Alito said "there must be some limit on the authority of state courts to countermand actions taken by state legislatures when they are prescribing rules for the conduct of federal elections. I think it is likely that the applicants would succeed in showing that the North Carolina Supreme Court exceeded those limits."

Justice Brett Kavanaugh has separately written about the need for federal courts to police the actions of state courts when it comes to federal elections. Chief Justice John Roberts' record on this question gives both sides some hope. In 2015, he wrote a strong dissent from the court's decision upholding an independent redistricting commission in Arizona.

Roberts wrote that the Constitution does not permit "a state to wholly exclude 'the Legislature' from redistricting."

But in 2019, Roberts wrote the court's majority opinion that closed federal courts to claims of partisan gerrymandering but noted state courts remained open. "Provisions in state statutes and state constitutions can provide standards and guidance for state courts to apply," he wrote, in an opinion joined by Alito, Gorsuch, Kavanaugh and Thomas.

The court's other conservative justice, Amy Coney Barrett, has no track record in this area.

In North Carolina, a new round of redistricting is expected to go forward next year and produce a map with more Republican districts, whatever the outcome of the high-court case.

In last month's elections, voters flipped the majority on the state Supreme Court, electing two new Republican justices that give the GOP a 5-2 edge and make it probable, though not certain, that the court would uphold a map with more Republican districts. □

Associated Press

Rail workers say deal won't resolve quality-of-life concerns

By JOSH FUNK

AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — When BNSF railroad conductor Justin Schaaf needed to take time off from work this summer, he had to make a choice: go to the dentist to get a cavity in his molar filled or attend a party for his son's 7th birthday. He chose his son.

"Ultimately I decided to take the day off for my kid's birthday party," Schaaf said. "Then when I am finally able to get into the dentist four, five, six months later, the tooth is too bad to repair at that point, so I have to get the tooth pulled out."

Those are the kind of tradeoffs that railroad workers worry they might still have to make after Congress voted this week to impose a contract on them to avoid the economic disaster that would accompany a railroad strike. Workers and their unions say the deal didn't do enough to address their quality-of-life concerns and didn't add any sick days.

President Joe Biden signed a bill Friday to block a strike and force workers to accept the agreements union leaders made in September, even though four of the 12 unions — which include a majority of rail workers — voted to reject them. Business groups had been urging Biden to intervene for weeks.



A rail worker switches a track for a locomotive in the Selkirk rail yard, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022, in Selkirk, N.Y.

Associated Press

For Schaaf, he's not sure if the new contract will make it any easier to find another day off sometime next year to pay to have a fake tooth implanted in his mouth.

"If I had the option of taking a sick day ... I would have never been in that situation," he said from his home in Glasgow, Montana.

Schaaf said it was discouraging, but not surprising, to see Congress step in to settle the contract dispute ahead of next Friday's strike deadline.

Lawmakers have made a habit of stepping in to impose contracts when railroads and their unions reach the brink of a strike —

18 times since the passage of the 1926 Railway Labor Act, by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's count — because of the potential economic consequences. Many businesses rely on railroads to deliver raw materials and ship their final products, so a rail strike would send a catastrophic ripple through the economy.

Passenger railroads also would be disrupted because so many use tracks owned by the freight railroads.

The five-year deals that rail workers wound up with include 24% raises and \$5,000 in bonuses. But concerns about the lack of paid sick

time and the demanding schedules that unions say make it hard for workers to ever take a day off dominated the contract talks. The rail unions say they weren't able to get more concessions out of the railroads because the big companies knew Congress would intervene.

The railroads refused to add paid sick days to the deal at the end of three years of negotiations because they didn't want to pay much more than a special board of arbitrators appointed by Biden recommended this summer.

Plus, the railroads say the unions have agreed over

the years to forego paid sick leave in favor of higher wages and strong short-term disability benefits that kick in after as little as four days.

But to retired engineer Jeff Kurtz, there is still a lot of work to be done to restore the quality of life he enjoyed before he left the railroad eight years ago.

He doubts rail workers today would be able to get time off for key family events on short notice the way he did when he found out his son was getting his doctorate right before Christmas in 2009.

"You hear when you hire out on the railroad you're going to miss some things. But you're not supposed to miss everything," said Kurtz, who remains active even in retirement with the Railroad Workers United coalition that includes workers from every union.

"You shouldn't miss your kids growing up. You shouldn't miss the seminal moments in your family's life."

Over the past six years, the major railroads have eliminated nearly one-third of their jobs as they overhauled operations, making the work more demanding for those who remain.

The unions say they won't stop fighting for more paid sick leave, but now they may have to wait for negotiations on the next contract beginning in 2025. □



Estonia's Defense Minister Hanno Pevkur, left, is greeted by Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin during an honor cordon ceremony, upon his arrival at the Pentagon, Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2022, in Washington.

Associated Press

By TARA COPP
Associated Press

ABOARD A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT (AP) — Defense

Keep COVID military vaccine mandate, defense chief says

Secretary Lloyd Austin said he wants to keep the military's COVID-19 vaccine mandate in place to protect the health of the troops, as Republican governors and lawmakers press to rescind it.

This past week more than 20 Republican governors sent a letter to President Joe Biden asking that the administration remove the mandate, saying it has hurt the U.S. National Guard's ability to recruit troops. Those troops are activated

by governors to respond to natural disasters or unrest. Congress may consider legislation this coming week to end the mandate as a requirement to gather enough support to pass this year's defense budget, which is already two months late.

Austin said he would not comment on pressure from the Hill.

"We lost a million people to this virus," Austin told reporters traveling with him Saturday. "A million people

died in the United States of America. We lost hundreds in DOD. So this mandate has kept people healthy."

"I'm the guy" who ordered the military to require the vaccine, Austin added. "I support continuation of vaccinating the troops."

Last year Austin directed that all troops get the vaccine or face potential expulsion from the military; thousands of active duty forces have been discharged since then for their refusal to get the shots. □

U.S. intel chief thinking 'optimistically' for Ukraine forces

By JAMEY KEATEN and NO-
MAAN MERCHANT
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The head of U.S. intelligence says fighting in Russia's war in Ukraine is running at a "reduced tempo" and suggests Ukrainian forces could have brighter prospects in coming months. Avril Haines alluded to past allegations by some that Russian President Vladimir Putin's advisers could be shielding him from bad news — for Russia — about war developments, and said he "is becoming more informed of the challenges that the military faces in Russia."

"But it's still not clear to us that he has a full picture of at this stage of just how challenged they are," Haines, the U.S. director of national intelligence, said Saturday at the Reagan National Defense Forum in Simi Valley, California.

She said her team was "seeing a kind of a reduced tempo already of the conflict" and looking ahead expects both sides will look to refit, resupply, and reconstitute for a possible Ukrainian counter-offensive in the spring.

"But we actually have a fair amount of skepticism as to whether or not the Russians will be in fact prepared to do that," Haines said. "And I think more optimistically for the Ukrainians in that time frame."

On Sunday, the British Ministry of Defense, in its latest intelligence estimate, pointed to new signs from an independent Russian media outlet that public support in Russia for the military campaign was "falling significantly."

Meduza said it obtained a recent confidential opinion survey conducted by the Federal Protection Service, which is in charge of guarding the Kremlin and providing security to top government officials.

The survey, commissioned by the Kremlin, found that 55% of respondents backed peace talks with Ukraine while 25% wanted the war to go on. The report didn't mention the margin of er-



Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland, plays with children who have been driven from their homes in the country's eastern and southern regions because of the war, in Kyiv, Ukraine, Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022.

Associated Press

ror. Levada Center, Russia's top independent pollster, found in a similar poll carried out in November that 53% of respondents supported peace talks, 41% spoke in favor of continuing the fight, and 6% were undecided. It said that poll of 1,600 people had a margin of error of no more than 3.4%.

The British Defense Ministry noted that "despite the Russian authorities' efforts to enforce pervasive control of the information environment, the conflict has become increasingly tangible for many Russians" since Putin in September ordered a "partial mobilization" of reservists to bolster his forces in Ukraine.

"With Russia unlikely to achieve major battlefield successes in the next several months, maintaining even tacit approval of the war amongst the population is likely to be increasingly difficult for the Kremlin," the British ministry said. In recent weeks, Russia's military focus has been on striking Ukrainian infrastructure nationwide, pressing an offensive in the Donetsk region city of Bakhmut and shelling sites in the city of Kherson, which Ukrainian forces liberated last month after an 8-month Russian

occupation. In his nightly address on Saturday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy lashed out at Western efforts to crimp Russia's crucial oil industry, a key source of funds for Putin's war machine, saying their \$60-per-barrel price cap on imports of most Russian oil was insufficient. "It is not a serious decision to set such a limit for Russian prices, which is quite comfortable for the budget of the terrorist state," Zelenskyy said, referring to Russia. He said the \$60-per-barrel level would still allow Russia to bring in \$100 billion in revenues per year.

"This money will go not only to the war and not only to further sponsorship by Russia of other terrorist regimes and organisations. This money will be used for further destabilisation of those countries that are now trying to avoid serious decisions," Zelenskyy said.

Australia, Britain, Canada, Japan, the United States and the 27-nation European Union agreed Friday to cap what they would pay for Russian oil at \$60 per barrel. The limit is set to take effect Monday, along with an EU embargo on Russian oil shipped by sea.

Russian authorities have rejected the price cap and

threatened Saturday to stop supplying the nations that endorsed it.

"We will sell oil and oil products to those countries, which will work with us on market conditions, even if we have to somewhat cut production," Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak said Sunday.

In yet another show of Western support for Ukraine's efforts to battle back Russian forces and cope with fallout from the war, U.S. Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland on Saturday visited the operations of a Ukrainian aid group that provides support for internally displaced people in Ukraine, among her other visits with top Ukrainian officials.

Nuland assembled dolls out of yarn in the blue-and-yellow colors of Ukraine's flag with youngsters from regions including Kharkiv in the northeast, Kherson in the south and Donetsk in the east.

"This is psychological support for them at an absolutely crucial time," Nuland said.

"As President Putin knows best, this war could stop today, if he chose to stop it and withdrew his forces — and then negotiations can begin," she added. □

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Iran morality police status unclear after 'closure' comment

By JACK JEFFERY

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An Iranian lawmaker said Sunday that Iran's government is "paying attention to the people's real demands," state media reported, a day after a top official suggested that the country's morality police whose conduct helped trigger months of protests has been shut down.

The role of the morality police, which enforces veiling laws, came under scrutiny after a detainee, 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, died in its custody in mid-September. Amini had been held for allegedly violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress codes. Her death unleashed a wave of unrest that has grown into calls for the downfall of Iran's clerical rulers.

Iran's chief prosecutor Mohamed Jafar Montazeri said on Saturday the morality police "had been closed," the semi-official news agency ISNA reported. The agency did not provide details, and state media hasn't reported such a purported decision. In a report carried by ISNA on Sunday, lawmaker Nezamoddin Mousavi signaled a less confrontational approach toward the



In this photo taken by an individual not employed by the Associated Press and obtained by the AP outside Iran, Iranians protests the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini after she was detained by the morality police, in Tehran, Oct. 1, 2022.

Associated Press

protests.

"Both the administration and parliament insisted that paying attention to the people's demand that is mainly economic is the best way for achieving stability and confronting the riots," he said, following a closed meeting with several senior Iranian officials, including President Ebrahim Raisi.

Mousavi did not address the reported closure of the morality police.

The Associated Press has been unable to confirm the current status of the force, established in 2005 with the task of arresting people who violate the country's Islamic dress code. Since September, there has been a reported decline in the number of morality police officers across Iranian cities and an increase in women walking in public without headscarves, contrary to Iranian law.

Montazeri, the chief pros-

ecutor, provided no further details about the future of the morality police or if its closure was nationwide and permanent. However he added that Iran's judiciary will "continue to monitor behavior at the community level."

In a report by ISNA on Friday, Montazeri was quoted as saying that the government was reviewing the mandatory hijab law. "We are working fast on the issue of hijab and we are

doing our best to come up with a thoughtful solution to deal with this phenomenon that hurts everyone's heart," said Montazeri, without offering details.

Saturday's announcement could signal an attempt to appease the public and find a way to end the protests in which, according to rights groups, at least 470 people were killed. More than 18,000 people have been arrested in the protests and the violent security force crackdown that followed, according to Human Rights Activists in Iran, a group monitoring the demonstrations.

Ali Alfoneh, a senior fellow at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington, said Montazeri's statement about closing the morality police could be an attempt to pacify domestic unrest without making real concessions to protesters. When asked about Montazeri's statement, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian gave no direct answer. "Be sure that in Iran, within the framework of democracy and freedom, which very clearly exists in Iran, everything is going very well," Amirabdollahian said, speaking during a visit to Belgrade, Serbia. □



A resident looks out from her doorway as a soldier takes part in an operation in search of gang members, in Soyapango, El Salvador, Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022.

Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — The government of El Salvador sent 10,000 soldiers and police to seal off a town on the outskirts of the nation's capital Saturday to search

for gang members. The operation was one of the largest mobilizations yet in President Nayib Bukele's nine-month-old crackdown on street gangs that long extorted

El Salvador sends 10,000 police, soldiers to seal off town

money from businesses and ruled many neighborhoods of the capital, San Salvador.

The troops blocked roads going in and out of the township of Soyapango, checking people's documents. Special teams went into the town looking for gang suspects.

"Starting now, the township of Soyapango is completely surrounded," Bukele wrote in his Twitter account. He posted videos showing ranks of rifle-toting soldiers.

More than 58,000 people have been jailed since a state of emergency was declared following a wave

of homicides in late March. Rights groups have criticized the mass roundups, saying they often sweep up young men based on their appearance or where they live.

It was part of what Bukele had called in late November "Phase Five" of the crackdown. Bukele said such tactics worked in the town of Comasagua in October.

In October, more than 2,000 soldiers and police surrounded and closed off Comasagua in order to search for street gang members accused in a killing. Drones flew over the town, and everyone enter-

ing or leaving the town was questioned or searched. About 50 suspects were detained in two days.

"It worked," Bukele said. The government estimates that homicides dropped 38% in the first 10 months of the year compared to the same period of 2021.

Bukele requested Congress grant him extraordinary powers after gangs were blamed for 62 killings on March 26, and that emergency decree has been renewed every month since then. It suspends some Constitutional rights and gives police more powers to arrest and hold suspects. □



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Stichting Hunto: Drastic increase in treatment for depression and anxiety among the youth



ORANJESTAD – Stichting Hunto (Together Foundation) is a relatively new foundation established last October. Stichting Hunto is a cooperation between the organizations SPD (Social-Psychiatric Department) and FMAA (Foundation for the management of Addiction), through which issues of addiction will be managed and through which basic psychiatric care will be afforded to children and teenagers.

Arthur Comenencia, director of Centro Colorado (of FMAA) explained in an interview with our reporter that according to their annual numbers, they noted a drastic increase in treatment for mental health, particularly for depression and anxiety among young people. Substance use, for example marijuana, also registered a drastic increase because of the Covid pandemic.

"There is great demand, and we are busy expanding the help we can provide. For this reason we united, so that when a client approaches us, through a triage system the client receives faster help for his needs. He is evaluated to see if he needs psychiatric help, be it from the children or adults psychiatrist", Comenencia indicated.

Regarding the problem of homeless addicts, which quietly remains a big issue in Aruba, Comenencia explained that the Ministry of Justice established interference care, consisting of a special team that approaches the addicts, the clients, to offer help and see if they want to accept this. Once they accept the help they go to an walk-in center in Meiveld, known popularly as Samba, and there they begin the trajectory to prepare for rehabilitation.

"There is a special team that goes on the streets every day to speak to the clients, but it's the clients themselves who need to decide to accept the help. Once they accept, a special team brings them to the walk-in center, where they go every day to receive their meals and to begin the preparation phase with a psychiatrist so that they can enter the rehabilitation center", Comenencia explained.

There is still some taboo regarding the topic of mental health and addiction in Aruba, however, little by little this is being eliminated. Through talks organized by Stichting Hunto, they try to bring to light the efforts of the team of mental health and addiction.

"We get a lot of calls from schools, a lot of calls from companies, to start a conversation regarding addiction and mental health. Addiction and mental health cannot be separated from each other. Psychiatry falls together with addiction. And we receive a lot of calls from schools and workplaces also to bring information and let them know of the process they need to start in order to receive help, for the people who need it."



For the next year, Stichting Hunto has very big plans, according to Comenencia. They are working on renovations for a more modern Centro Colorado. Comenencia explained that they also have the building situated behind the Pius X School in Dakota, where they will have a specialized clinic in order to provide treatment for children as well as adults. People can arrive at this center to receive treatment, and if they need to enter rehabilitation, they are then sent to Centro Colorado.

"These are the plans that Stichting Hunto has. But also to change the way of thinking in the community regarding psychiatry and addiction", Comenencia said. □





Nikkei Sushi Bar, not just a sushi bar



Nikkei is a name commonly used in Japan to refer to people of Japanese ancestry that are living abroad as citizens of other countries. It refers to the mix of cuisine and culture of the Japanese migrants in Peru. In time, successive generations created the cuisine that is generally known as Nikkei.

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Further Development Information Organizations Carib (DIOC) congress held by the Board of Chief of Police

ORANJESTAD – On November 28, 2022, the DIOC Congress held by the Board of Chief of Police started.

In this Congress, all stakeholders follow the intelligence training course. They also seize the opportunity to come to a consensus on how to work better and closer together and share duties and consultation structures.

The Minister of Justice and Social Affairs, Rocco Tjon, is satisfied to attend the Congress about the investments required in the information departments in the Caribbean. One of the most significant issues in the Minister of Justice and Social Affairs Policy plan is the fight against crime by investing more in the information departments. It is time to realize that an information department is essential to fight crime efficiently and effectively and not a luxury.



For this reason, information management and everything information related is a priority on the strategic agenda of the Minister of Justice.

According to Minister Tjon, he is thrilled to see how the Board of Police Chiefs organized this Congress. The Judicial departments of the Dutch Kingdom and other entities came together to seek the most efficient way to share information and come to agreements. It is important not only due to local and international developments but also due to the technical and judicial challenges. The Congress is for three days and includes a workshop about the latest developments in the intelligence and information world.

The Minister thanked the Board of Chief of Police and the entire team for realizing this encounter to fight against crime through intelligence and information. □



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Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a "must see" landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the "T" junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor

Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the "fluke" or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.



Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

"According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain."

Story 2:

"Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them."

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas

area to draw tourism to the area.

The "anchor", which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated "To All Seamen" on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated "To All Seamen" in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. □



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Fifth of December: a beautiful night for children in the Dutch Kingdom

ORANJESTAD – On December 5th, Dutch people celebrate Sinterklaas, a festivity where children receive sweets and small toys if they leave their shoes out with grass for Sinterklaas' white horse.

Before that, Sinterklaas arrives in Aruba and with his "Piets", and this year, they arrived on the 13th of November.

Sinterklaas is represented by a man dressed in red attire with white hair and a white beard, he is representing Saint Nicolas, a bishop from the 4th century who lived in what is now Turkey. From the 11th century, the stories about his miracles became known in Western Europe, and he became a patron saint for children.

The feast of Sinterklaas has been celebrated for at least 700 years in the Netherlands. The story of his companions, Zwarte Piet – "Black Pete" – came from a book by Jan Schenkman written in 1850, but the commercialization of the day began in the 1930s. Traditionally, children received the present in their shoe on the 6th of December, the official day of Saint Nicholas in the Catholic calendar, but the celebration gradually shifted to the 5th of December, known as "pakjesavond".

Sinterklaas vs. Santa Claus
It is said that Sinterklaas was the precursor of Santa Claus. Historians believe that Dutch and German settlers took the tradition with them to America. There, his Catholic garb was gradually transformed into the jolly non-sectarian red suit with the white fur trim we are all so familiar with. Additionally, his lithe frame gave way to a well-padded potbelly, and his trusty white steed was traded in for a troupe of reindeer. Either way, both Sinterklaas and Santa Claus stand for the generosity of spirit and kindness to children.

Sinterklaas will be arriving in Aruba on the 13th of No-



vember, although his Piets look a little different nowadays.

President of the Commission for the Celebration of National Holidays, Lyonel Dirks explained that for two years, the arrival of Sinterklaas was not an event for children to attend because of the Covid-19 pandemic. This year, Sinterklaas will arrive at 10am at Aruba Ports Authority, from where he will board Harbour Arena, and continue with a parade as became customary the last few years. Dirks said that this year the parade will be a little shorter, as requested by the groups that have been participating for many years, and so the parade will end at Plaza Padu.

"This is the centre where the celebration will continue as Sinterklaas and his Piets arrive in Aruba. There will be activities with different dance groups, shows, and when Sinterklaas arrives around 12 or 1pm, the celebration will continue until 2pm", he said.

Colorful Piet

Sinterklaas is assisted by many mischievous helpers with that traditionally wore black faces and colorful Moorish dresses. These companions are called Zwarte Piet ("Black Pete"). Zwarte Piet first appeared in print as the nameless

servant of Saint Nicholas in Sint-Nikolaas en zijn knecht ("St. Nicholas and His Servant/Apprentice"), published in 1850 by Amsterdam schoolteacher Jan Schenkman; however, the tradition appears to date back at least as far as the early 19th Century.

Zwarte Piet's colorful dress is based on 16th-century noble attire, with a ruff (lace collar) and a feathered cap. He is typically depicted carrying a bag which contains candy for the children. The Zwarte Pietsen toss their candy around, a tradition supposedly originating in the story of Saint Nicholas saving three young girls from prostitution by tossing golden coins through their window at night to pay their dowries.

Something that was previously announced is that this year the Piets will be colorful instead of black. Edselyn Figaroa also prepared a book that will be published soon, called Piet Academy, which will tell the story or why the Piets will have colorful faces this year.

Minister of Culture and Finance, Xiomara Maduro explained that there was controversy regarding the color of the Piets. This is a Dutch tradition, but some people consider that it includes discrimination with Zwarte Piet painting their

entire face black, with big lips and gold rings – to many, this represents slavery and discrimination.

"The movement came not only from the Netherlands but also the world and the United Nations. In Aruba we know also that children from a young age are teased by being called Zwarte Piet, and they feel discriminated against. This is why, seeing everything that is going on, two years ago we decided that the arrival of Sinterklaas, which receives public funding, cannot be something that brings discrimination. This is why we decided to come up with colorful Piets", Maduro pointed out.

Pakjesavond

According to sinterklaas-feestdag.nl, Pakjesavond – or, night of little gifts – is climax of the celebration of the feast of Sinterklaas. On this night, children receive the most gifts. Pakjesavond is celebrated with family or friends, with people singing special Sinterklaas carols. On this night, Sinterklaas and his Piets come by with a sack full of gifts. Mostly they place this sack by the front door or by a window, knock on the window or ring the doorbell, and run away quickly. Very rarely they do a personal visit to a child and answer all their questions.

Pakjesavond became a popular celebration after the Second World War, that is with a sack full of gifts that are distributed on that night. Before this time, children would simply put their shoes outside and received their small gifts in the morning. The whole family did get together on pakjesavond to celebrate the climax of the feast of Sinterklaas together.

After the war, wealth became available and Sinterklaas was able to give more gifts to all children. Increasingly, people give each other more gifts with poems and little surprises, anonymously to maintain an atmosphere of secrecy. □

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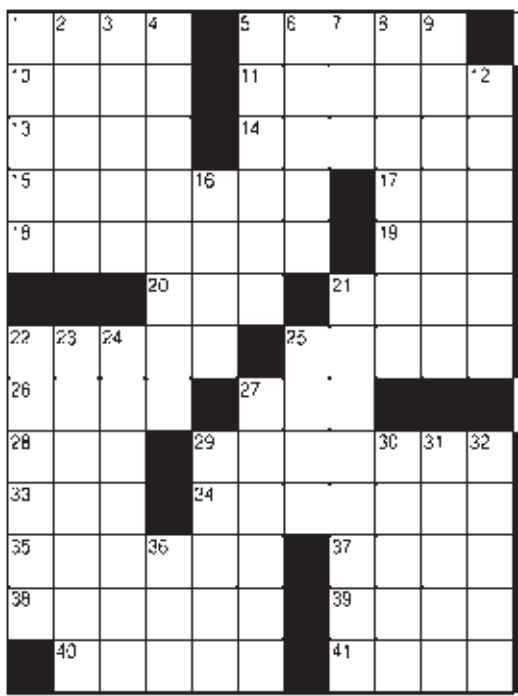
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 34 Central American capital
 - 1 Curving paths
 - 5 Second U.S. president
 - 10 Homer and Marge's boy
 - 11 Flower parts
 - 13 Smell
 - 14 Like vistas
 - 15 Baseball team leader
 - 17 Spring mo.
 - 18 Ale producer
 - 19 Long-running CBS drama
 - 20 Got together
 - 21 Deep purple
 - 22 New parents' choices
 - 25 Sheds tears
 - 26 Broadway's "Dear — Hansen"
 - 27 Spoil
 - 28 Come in first
 - 29 Butler or maid
 - 33 Goat sound
- DOWN**
- 1 Manhattan Project product
 - 2 Weather aid
 - 3 Witch
 - 4 Scare-crows
 - 5 State as true
 - 6 Condemn openly
 - 7 King Kong, for one
 - 8 Shackle
 - 9 Goofs
 - 12 Theater drops
 - 16 Turns right
 - 21 Spread throughout
 - 22 Film great Paul
 - 23 Flies
 - 24 Sea cow
 - 25 Tip off
 - 27 Less civil
 - 29 Mona Lisa feature
 - 30 Sprightly
 - 31 Hospital worker
 - 32 Spud
 - 36 Find a sum

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ALLURE PASO
ROARED EYES
CHINS HERDS
HANK BODICE
EARS DAD
WHYBOTHER
COO BASE
UNUSED LATE
TODAY LIBEL
EVIL REPUTE
SENT INASEC
TRIS MODEST

Saturday's answer

- 41 Woodland grazer
- 6 Condemn openly
- 7 King Kong, for one
- 8 Shackle
- 9 Goofs
- 12 Theater drops
- 16 Turns right
- 21 Spread throughout
- 22 Film great Paul
- 23 Flies
- 24 Sea cow
- 25 Tip off
- 27 Less civil
- 29 Mona Lisa feature
- 30 Sprightly
- 31 Hospital worker
- 32 Spud
- 36 Find a sum



A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-5

CRYPTOQUOTE

X D L U F Q T R L X Q X N Q A Q L Z X W

D P I K M D S P C L J Q R X R K

M Q T Q K K L F W X D K X L M I D Z X

R M X N Q T D C I — L M D M W B D Z K

Saturday's Cryptoquote: THE COLOR OF SPRINGTIME IS FLOWERS; THE COLOR OF WINTER IS IN THE IMAGINATION. — TERRI GUILLEMETS

No OPEC+ oil shakeup as Russian price cap stirs uncertainty

By DAVID McHUGH

AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— The Saudi-led OPEC oil cartel and allied producers including Russia did not change their targets for shipping oil to the global economy amid uncertainty about the impact of new Western sanctions against Russia that could take significant amounts of oil off the market.

The decision at a meeting of oil ministers Sunday comes a day ahead of the planned start of two measures aimed at hitting Russia's oil earnings in response to its invasion of Ukraine.

Those are: a European Union boycott of most Russian oil and a price cap of \$60 per barrel on Russian exports imposed by the EU and the Group of Seven democracies.

It is not yet clear how much Russian oil the two sanctions measures could take off the global market, which would tighten supply and drive up prices. The world's No. 2 oil producer has been able to reroute much, but not all, of its former Europe shipments to customers in India, China and Turkey.

The impact of the price cap is also up in the air because Russia has said it could simply halt deliveries to countries that observe the limit. But analysts say the country would likely also find ways to evade the cap for some shipments.

On the other side, oil has been trading at lower prices on fears that coronavirus outbreaks and China's strict zero-COVID restrictions would reduce demand for fuel in one of the world's major economies. Concerns about reces-



Taps are photographed at a gas station in Frankfurt, Germany, on Oct. 5, 2022.

Associated Press

sions in the U.S. and Europe also raise the prospect of lower demand for gasoline and other fuel made from crude.

That uncertainty is the reason the OPEC+ alliance gave in October for a slashing production by 2 million barrels per day starting in November, a cut that remains in effect. Analysts say that took less than the full amount off the market because OPEC+ members already can't meet their full production quotas.

An OPEC+ statement Sunday pushed back against criticism of that October decision in view of the recent weakness in oil prices, saying the cut had been "recognized in retrospect by the market participants to have been the necessary and the right course of action towards stabilizing global oil markets."

The White House, which has pressed for more oil supply to keep gasoline costs down for U.S. drivers, at the time called the cut "shortsighted" and said the alliance was "aligning with Russia."

With the global economy

slowing, oil prices have been falling since summertime highs, with international benchmark Brent closing Friday at \$85.42 per barrel, down from \$98 a month ago.

That has eased gasoline prices for drivers around the world.

Average gas prices have fallen for U.S. drivers in recent days to \$3.41 per gallon, according to motoring club federation AAA.

While U.S., European and other allies seek to punish Russia for the war in Ukraine, they also want to prevent a sudden loss of Russian crude that could send oil and gasoline prices back up.

That is why the G-7 price cap allows shipping and insurance companies to transport Russian oil to non-Western nations at or below that threshold. Most of the globe's tanker fleet is covered by insurers in the G-7 or EU.

Russia would likely try to evade the cap by organizing its own insurance and using the world's shadowy fleet of off-the-books tankers, as Iran and Venezuela have done, but that would be costly and cumbersome, analysts say.

The cap of \$60 a barrel is near the current price of Russian oil, meaning Moscow could continue to sell while rejecting the cap in principle. Oil use also declines in the winter, in part because fewer people are driving. □

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24/7

Trump rebuked for call to suspend Constitution over election



Former President Donald Trump announces a third run for president as he speaks at Mar-a-Lago in Palm Beach, Fla., Nov. 15, 2022.

By HOPE YEN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Donald Trump faced rebuke Sunday from officials in both parties after calling for the “termination” of parts of the Constitution over his lie that the 2020 election was stolen.

Trump, who announced last month that he is running again for president, made the claim over the weekend on his Truth Social media platform.

“A Massive Fraud of this type and magnitude allows for the termination of all rules, regulations, and articles, even those found in the Constitution,” he wrote. “Our great ‘Founders’ did not want, and would not condone, False & Fraudulent Elections!”

Incoming House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries on Sunday described

Associated Press

Trump’s statement as strange and extreme and said Republicans will have to make a choice whether to continue embracing Trump’s anti-democratic views.

“Republicans are going to have to work out their issues with the former president and decide whether they’re going to break from him and return to some semblance of reasonableness or continue to lean in to the extremism, not just of Trump, but Trumpism,” Jeffries said.

Trump, who is the first to be impeached twice and whose term ended with his supporters violently storming the Capitol in a deadly bid to halt the peaceful transition of power on Jan. 6, 2021, faces a escalating criminal investigations, including several that could lead to indictments. They include the probe into clas-

sified documents seized by the FBI from Mar-a-Lago, and ongoing state and federal inquiries related to efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election.

Asked about Trump’s comments Sunday, Rep. Mike Turner of Ohio, the top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee, said he “vehemently” disagrees and “absolutely” condemns the remarks, saying they should be a factor as Republicans decide who should lead their party in 2024.

“There is a political process that has to go forward before anybody is a frontrunner or anybody is even the

candidate for the party,” he said. “I believe that people certainly are going to take into consideration a statement like this as they evaluate a candidate.”

“The Constitution is set for a reason, to protect the rights of every American,” Lawler said. “I think the former president would be well-advised to focus on the future, if he is going to run for president again.” □



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Watson rusty in return but Browns get 27-14 win over Texans

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Deshaun Watson didn't play well Sunday in his return after sitting out almost two years. Cleveland's defense and special teams ensured the Browns got the win despite his struggles.

Watson turned in a sloppy performance in his first game in 700 days, but a punt return for a touchdown by Donovan Peoples-Jones and two defensive TDs were plenty enough to give the Browns a 27-14 victory over the lowly Houston Texans.

In the same stadium where he played his previous game, a rusty Watson threw for 131 yards with an interception in his debut for the Browns (5-7) against his former team in his return after serving an 11-game NFL suspension for sexual misconduct allegations.

"It's not going to be perfect, especially playing December football and it's Week 1 for me," Watson said.

"It was fun, though. It was awesome to be out there with my teammates. The defense played a heck of a game. Special teams return was big for us. That's what we needed at the time. It's a team sport."

Plenty of fans attended the game wearing Watson's No. 4 jersey from both the Texans (1-10-1) and the Browns, but there were also detractors with loud boos raining down on him every time he touched the ball. The Browns trailed 5-0 early, but a 76-yard punt return by Peoples-Jones put them on top in the second quarter and Denzel Ward's 4-yard fumble return for a score pushed the lead to 14-5 early in the third quarter.

"He's human," Cleveland coach Kevin Stefanski said of Watson. "Coming back here, first game in a while, his teammates had his back."

Cleveland didn't score on offense until a 43-yard field goal made it 17-8 with about 10 minutes remaining. The Browns added a second defensive score when Tony Fields



Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson (4) calls a play at the line during the first half of an NFL football game between the Cleveland Browns and Houston Texans in Houston, Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

intercepted Kyle Allen and returned it 16 yards on the next play. It's the first time in franchise history that the Browns had three non-offensive touchdowns in a game.

"I think our defense played well throughout (but) their defense outplayed our defense today," Houston coach Lovie Smith said. Allen had a terrible day in his second start since Davis Mills was benched.

He threw for 201 yards with a fumble that was returned for a touchdown and two interceptions, the second of which was returned for a score, as Houston's skid stretched seven games.

"Offensively you can't win many games playing like that," Smith said. "I'm just disappointed in how we played offensively."

It was Watson's first start since Jan. 3, 2021, when he threw for 365 yards and three touchdowns for Houston in a 41-38 loss to Tennessee.

Soon after that, he became unhappy with the direction

of the team and requested a trade. Then, two dozen women accused him of sexual harassment or assault during massage therapy sessions.

He remained on Houston's roster last year, but sat out all season before being traded to the Browns in March.

Watson agreed to the lengthy suspension, a \$5 million fine and had to undergo professional counseling and therapy after an independent arbitrator ruled that he violated the league's personal conduct policy.

Watson was 12 of 22 and finished with a 53.4 QB rating, which was the lowest of a career where he took the Texans to the playoffs in two of the four seasons he played for them.

His first completion was on his third throw on a short pass to Anthony Schwartz. But Tavierre Thomas stripped the ball and Desmond King recovered it to give Houston the ball on the Cleveland 38.

The Texans had a first down at the 16, but a face mask penalty followed by a false start pushed them back 20 yards and they settled for a 44-yard field goal four plays later to make it 3-0.

Nick Chubb had 80 yards rushing for the Browns and Kareem Hunt added 56 yards.

Watson was hit as he threw and was picked off in the end zone by rookie Jalen Pitre with about 3½ minutes left in the first quarter. Pitre returned it 29 yards.

"There's some good things that we can build on, but overall, we just got to make more plays," Pitre said.

The Texans got down to the 1, but Allen threw an incomplete pass on fourth-and-1 to give the Browns the ball back. Three plays later Roy Lopez tackled Chubb in the end zone to make it 5-0.

Peoples-Jones put the Browns on top when he returned a punt 76 yards for a touchdown to make it 7-5 with about four minutes left in the second.

He evaded four tackles at the start of the return and then simply outran everyone the rest of the way for Cleveland's first punt return for a score since Travis Benjamin had a 78-yard return on Sept. 20, 2015.

The Texans looked to have returned a fumble by Watson for a touchdown with less than a minute left in the first half. But officials ruled that it was an incomplete pass.

The Browns extended the lead to 14-5 when Ward scooped up a fumble by Allen and returned it 4 yards for a touchdown with about 10 minutes left in the third quarter.

Cleveland became the 11th team since the merger to have three or more touchdowns combined on defense and special teams without a TD on offense and the first since the Eagles did it in a 26-21 loss to San Francisco on Sept. 28, 2014. Allen was intercepted on the first play of the game when John Johnson grabbed a pass that was deflected by Teagan Quitoriano. The play was first ruled an incomplete pass, but the Browns challenged it, and it was reversed.

INJURIES

Browns rookie WR David Bell injured his hand in the first quarter. ... Schwartz left in the third quarter to be evaluated for a head injury. ... MLB Sione Takitaki injured his leg in the fourth quarter. ... TE David Njoku missed his third game in five weeks with a knee injury. ... Texans RB Troy Hairston injured his ribs in the second quarter. ... RB Rex Burkhead missed the game with a concussion. ... WR Brandin Cooks sat out with a calf injury.

FIRST TIMER

Houston Astros shortstop Jeremy Peña, the World Series MVP, attended Sunday's game and was on the sideline to hype up fans before kickoff. He said it was a new experience for him.

"It's special," he said. "This is my first football game ever, so I'm excited for that." □

Hovland hangs on to become repeat winner of World Challenge

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)

— Viktor Hovland won the Hero World Challenge with more excitement than he needed Sunday, clinching it with a 20-foot bogey putt on the final hole for a 3-under 69 to join tournament host Tiger Woods as the only back-to-back winners. Hovland took a four-shot lead at the turn when Masters champion Scottie Scheffler made double bogey on the par-5 ninth. No one got closer than two shots the rest of the way. It just didn't feel that easy. Hovland had a two-shot lead on the 18th when his 6-iron from the slope above a bunker turned hard left and into the water. He took a penalty drop and hit a full wedge to about 20 feet for a chance to save bogey.

Scheffler was in the sandy area right of the green, and his chip ran hard over the lip and settled 10 feet away, giving him a par putt to force a playoff if Hovland missed.

Hovland holed the bogey putt for another trophy presentation with Woods. It was far different from a year ago, when he rallied from six shots behind.

"It's frigging nerve-wracking," Hovland said with a smile. "You're never that comfortable. I didn't play that great on the back nine, but it was good enough."

Woods won in 2006 and 2007 when it was held at Sherwood Country Club. He had to withdraw this week with plantar fasciitis in his right foot, instead watching in his Sunday red shirt for some drama no one was expecting.

Hovland finished at 16-under 272 and won \$1 million. The victory is unofficial, but the world ranking points pushed him up three spots to No. 9.

Scheffler needed to win to return to No. 1 in the world, at least for a few weeks. Rory McIlroy was projected to finish the year at the top of the ranking regardless of the outcome.

Starting three shots behind,

Scheffler holed a pitch from 30 yards short of the green on the par-5 sixth hole for eagle to reach 14-under par and momentarily tie for the lead. Hovland was in trouble off the tee, had to play a blind shot over a 20-foot high dune and then holed an 18-foot birdie putt to stay one ahead.

The next hole was pivotal, the 18th notwithstanding. Scheffler's pitch from the bottom of the fairway on the short par-4 seventh barely got onto the green and rolled into the bunker, leading to bogey. Hovland was on the edge of a bunker and chipped to 5 feet for birdie and a two-shot swing, restoring his lead to three.

Scheffler's double bogey on the ninth, which culmi-

nated with a three-putt from about 15 feet, left him five shots behind.

Cameron Young made a strong bid and got within two shots at one point until he took bogey on the 16th. Xander Schauffele also made an early run until that ended with a bogey on the par-5 16th.

Scheffler ran off three straight birdies through the 16th hole to get within two shots, and Hovland gave him an opening on the 18th until he closed it with the big putt.

"I made it a little more exciting, I guess," Hovland said with a smile.

Scheffler's goal was to get within one shot before the 18th. He didn't quite reach that, but he still had a chance.



Norway's Viktor Hovland celebrates winning the Hero World Challenge PGA Tour at the Albany Golf Club in New Providence, Bahamas, Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

"I said earlier in the week that I don't like finishing second," said Scheffler, a runner-up in the Bahamas for the second straight year

who had his third runner-up finish this year.

"It's not a good feeling right now. But I'm proud of the fight." □

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Eagle Beach – When you think of a restaurant that pleases the needs of a whole family or a large group of people with all different tastes? Think Water's Edge Restaurant. Located at the shore of Aruba's most wonderful beach, The Eagle Beach Aruba. Water's Edge Restaurant is guaranteed to serve you a fantastic magical night to remember. Whether you prefer to enjoy the view from indoors air conditioned comfort, outdoors in the soft tropical breeze or under a palapa with your toes in the sand. This spectacular restaurant offers the best ocean view sunset or sky full of stars dinner while the crispy Caribbean night wind caresses your face and plays with your hair.

From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. The intense menu with a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts will not disappoint. Seafood, Steaks and international favorites. All on one menu specially made just for you.

Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp.

You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the

great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.



Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐



"Water's Edge Restaurant is where magnificent beach views, amazing food and excellent service come together."

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call **+297 583-8000 / ext 8106** or direct line **+297 586-9494**

For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website **watersedge-aruba.com**

